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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7434
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY 0610
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 2245
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 8471
RUEHNPN/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 2394
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000534

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TAGS: PREL UNSC IR IT

SUBJECT: ITALY: GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF IRAN UNSCR; BUT CONCERNED ABOUT ROLE OF P5+1/PARA 10

REF: A. A. SECSTATE 33349

1B. B. USUN 211

Classified By: DCM Anna M. Borg for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) DCM raised points on UNSCR on Iran (ref A) March 16 with FM D'Alema's Chief of Staff, Ambassador Nelli Feroci, who said he thought Italy would support the resolution as a balanced document. However, he said he would have to check with FM D'Alema personally on how strongly he felt about language in paragraph 10 reaffirming the role of the P5 1. Nelli Feroci also told the DCM D'Alema will want to discuss the UNSCR and next steps on Iran when he sees the Secretary March 19.

12. (C) Poloffs also shared points with PM Prodi's advisor on the Middle East, Marco Carnelos, and UN Office Director, Leonardo Bencini. Both echoed Nelli Feroci's generally positive analysis, but also expressed strong concerns over the language in paragraph 10 and pointed out this would be the first time the P5 1 format would be "legitimized" in a UNSCR. Additionally, Bencini warned Italy would have a hard time approving economic sanctions that could have a negative effect on the Iranian public as that would only alienate them; he argued it is critical to keep sanctions linked to non-proliferation.

COMMENT

13. (C) The concerns raised by D'Alema and Prodi's advisors track with Italian UNSC Perm Rep Spatafora's (Ref B) comments in New York over Italy's continued exclusion from th P5 1. Just how far Italy will go to express its frustration is unclear, but D'Alema's March 19 meeting with the Secretary will be a barometer.

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